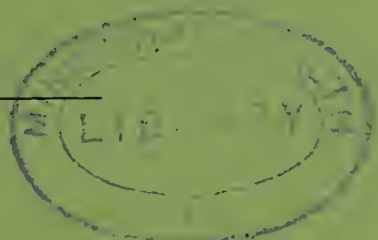


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ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1953.



ALSTON - WITH - GARRIGILL
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1953.



To the
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report as Medical Officer of Health for your area for the year 1953. I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector for much information and co-operation in the completion of the report.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. HASSAN.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL FOR THE YEAR 1953.

S E C T I O N A

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,971 Acres
Population :								1953
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,290
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book :								
Alston Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	492
Nenthead Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Garrigill Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
							Total	845
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£9,674
Sum represented by Penny Rate (less Exchequer Grants)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36 11s. 9.377d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

It is pleasing to report on the continued ascendancy of the birth rate over the death rate. As this has been a constant feature for over two years, and must be associated with the improved housing of the area, it is hoped that this feature will prove to be the norm. Not all the statistical features are satisfactory however the birth rate is down slightly, the death rate is down, which is good, giving a net increase of fifteen, but in spite of this, there has been an estimated reduction of eighty in the population. What is the explanation? Unemployment in the area is practically non-existent but it is in this matter of employment that an explanation will be found. In early 1953, there was, by local standards, a marked recession in local employment.

The effect was not seen in a rise of local unemployment, nor will it be, because the redundant labour was absorbed in industry within daily travelling distance. This daily migration threatens to become permanent if and when housing is found in the area of employment. The migration of young people, school leavers, has always been a feature of Alston because, the lighter industries with the opportunity of apprenticeship do not exist but now we see the married men with families moving. This trend will reduce the prosperity of the district as a whole and ought to be corrected if it is possible. There is a crying need for a new and light industry as there already exists an ample labour force of men, women and young people with homes and roots in Alston but jobs outwith.

LIVE BIRTHS.

					1953	
					M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	17	19
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—
					<hr/> 37 <hr/>	

STILL BIRTHS.

					M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—
					<hr/> 2 <hr/>	

ANNUAL BIRTH-RATE per 1,000
estimated population:

For this area	...	...	...	...	16.2
For Cumberland	...	...	...	...	16.7
For Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	...	...	...	16.2
For England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.5

					M.	F.
DEATHS	...	...	...	...	10	12
					<hr/> 22 <hr/>	

RATES per 1,000 estimated population :

For this area	...	...	...	9.6
For County of Cumberland	...	...	...	11.9
For Rural Areas of Cumberland	...	...	...	11.9
For England and Wales	...	...	...	11.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:	...	...	...	Nil.
			M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	—	...
				2
				2
			M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	...	...	—	...
				1
				1
			M.	F.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	1	...
				1
				2
Deaths from:				
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—

S E C T I O N B

(i) **Public Officers of the Authority.**

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):
JOHN R. HASSAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.

Cottage Hospital, Alston.
Daily, 9—10 a.m.; 6—7 p.m.

Sanitary Inspector:
R. W. THOMAS, M.S.I.A.,
Martins Bank Chambers, Alston.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

These are provided by the Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. The full and expeditious services available are invaluable.

(b) **Hospital Transport and Ambulance Services.**

These services are unchanged and give adequate satisfaction.

(c) **Home Nursing.**

The District Nursing Service is of a very high order and gives satisfaction to all concerned. The number of Home Helps has been increased and a very adequate service is now given to all who are eligible.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

We are very well served in this connection and full but moderate use is made of the facilities available.

SECTION C

(1) WATER.

(i) Alston.

The supply and quality of water in Alston is now satisfactory since the main to the Raise was laid. The Mains, apart from new work, remain suspect however and no doubt will be a source of continuous trouble.

(ii) Nenthead and Garrigill.

* There has been no new development in these areas and last year's report still applies.

(2) SEWERS AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

Generally satisfactory, but the method of disposal at Garrigill still leaves much to be desired.

(3) (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Pail Closets	...	152
Number of Earth Closets	...	148
Number of Water Closets	...	594

(ii) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The position with regard to Public Conveniences remains unsatisfactory, but instructions have been given to the Council's Architects to prepare plans for new conveniences to be built at Alston, Nenthead and Garrigill. At both Alston and Nenthead suitable sites were chosen, but at Garrigill a satisfactory site has not yet been chosen.

(iii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection during 1953 has been satisfactorily carried out and the new tip at Clarghyll has been continuously used and treated.

(iv) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	765
Nuisances Reported	...	...	...	...	...	30
Nuisances abated by Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	29
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	29

Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	126
Number of Houses Disinfested	...	...	...	...	1
Houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	—
New Houses Erected (Local Authority)	...	...	...	...	16
New Houses Erected (Privately)	...	...	...	...	2
Plans Submitted	...	...	...	...	11
Plans Approved	...	...	...	...	11
Number of New Sewer Connections	...	...	...	...	18
Number of New Water Connections	...	...	...	...	18

(4) SCHOOLS.

There has been no action here and the unsatisfactory report of last year applies in toto to the Alston Infants' School.

(5) FACTORIES.

(i) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. Register	No. Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	17	20	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
Total	21	24	1	—

(ii) Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred to by		Prosecutions
			Inspec- tor	Inspec- tor	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	1	—

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Great and satisfactory progress has been made under this heading since the war and although the figures are interesting to look at they cannot measure the increase in comfort and convenience bestowed on some hundreds of people many of whom lived in conditions which can only be described as deplorable. As will be seen the Council have now turned their attention to the needs of the small family units, single people, childless couples, and the elderly men and women. It is hoped to report next year that twenty-four one bedroom houses have been completed and occupied. It is considered that this will almost completely meet the needs of this rather special category of people.

POST WAR HOUSING

Houses completed to the end of 1953 :

Alston	...	...	...	...	54
Nenthead	...	...	...	...	16
Garrigill	...	...	...	...	8
Leadgate	...	...	...	...	2
					—
			Total		80
					—

Houses completed during 1953 :

Alston	...	...	...	...	8 (Council)
					2 (Private)
Nenthead		...	...	...	8
Garrigill	...	...	...	...	—
Leadgate	...	...	...	...	—
Total					16 (Council)
					2 (Private)

Houses under construction :

Alston	...	...	...	...	8 (Council)
					3 (Private)
Nenthead	...	...	...	...	—
Garrigill	...	...	...	...	—
Leadgate	...	...	...	...	—
Total					8 (Council)
					3 (Private)

Houses Planned :

	3 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	1 Bedroom
Alston (Mustard Field)	7	8	16
Nenthead (Vicarage Terrace)	2	—	8

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meats.

The standards adopted by the butchers are satisfactory and no action was necessary during the past year.

Catering Establishments.

Again it can be said that the Hotels, Cafes and Inns are run on satisfactory lines and proposed improvements mentioned in a previous report have been completed or are nearing completion.

FOOD VOLUNTARY SURRENDERED DURING 1953.

Canned Pork	...	...	...	...	9 lbs. 12 ozs.
Canned Briskett	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Canned Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	47 lbs. 14 ozs.
Canned Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Canned Salmon (1 tin)	...	...	...	...	3½ lbs.
Milk (2 tins)	...	...	...	...	1 lb. 13 ozs.
Soups (12 tins)	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	(2 tins).
Peas	...	...	...	...	(4 tins).
Pears	...	...	...	...	(2 tins).

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The general health of the community has been very good during the past year and only an epidemic of whooping cough marred the picture. At the risk of repetition the improved social conditions must attract the credit. Good food, good houses, with the modern appliances such as suction cleaners, good public cleansing, good drainage, clean water and all factors which aid the well-being of the individual and help in the creation of a strong resistance to disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) FOR THE YEAR 1953.

DISEASE.						N.	H.	D.
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	51	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Puerper. Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

N — Notified. H — Treated in Hospital. D — Died.

TUBERCULOSIS: NEW CASES and MORTALITY, 1953.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS				
		Pulmonary.		Non-		Pulmonary.		Non-		
				Pulmonary.				Pulmonary.		
				M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F,
0	...	...	...				
1	...	...	...				
5	...	...	...				
10	...	...	...				
20	...	...	...				
25	...	...	...				
35	...	...	...				
45	...	...	...				
55	...	...	...				
65	and upwards									

xv.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				M.	F.
				1953	
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, Other Forms	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	...	...	—	—
11.	Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	...	...	—	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm Breast	...	...	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	...	...	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	1	1
15.	Leukemia, aleukemia	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	5	1
18.	Coronary Disease	...	...	1	—
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	—	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	2	4
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	1	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	—	1
25.	Other Disease of Respiratory System	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	—	2
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	—	—
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	—	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and War Operations	...	...	—	—
				10	12



